



FLORAL STREET SCHOOL

December Preview

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Floral



Dear Floral Families,

We hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Thanksgiving holiday break. As we begin the three-plus weeks until the Christmas/New Year's vacation, we ask that you try to maintain your children's routines as much as possible during this busy time (please see Mrs. Lizotte's message from last week's Falcon Focus for more information on this – you can access this on our website under FSS News). Here at school, we will be doing our best to maintain our focus on our core value of "maximizing our learning" while channeling students' energy into their studies. Many teachers will also take advantage of the holiday season to help students learn about each other's holiday traditions. Typically, at this time of year, many parents have questions regarding the role that holidays may play in public schools. If you would like more information on this, please read the message Mr. Sawyer sent last year on this issue, which can also be accessed at the same place on our website (or a copy can be requested from the office). While it is hard to believe that 2003 is almost over, please accept our wishes for a prosperous 2004!

~ Joe Sawyer & Jane Lizotte

Important Notes:

- **MCAS testing** will take place during the following weeks in 2004. Please avoid planning travel and/or appointments that will affect attendance during these times.

Grade 3: March 22-April 2

Grade 4: March 30; May 17-28

Grade 5: May 17-28

- We would also like to remind you about a change in procedure regarding our **dismissal procedures**. Each day we have many requests from parents to pass along a message to their children regarding a change in their dismissal for that day. Rather than interrupt the learning environment through the intercom throughout the day, these messages will be delivered in person by a secretary or aide just prior to dismissal. In addition, please note that **if you must pick up your child during the school day** to take him/her to an appointment, we will wait until you arrive to call the student to the office. This prevents students from missing class time when parents/caretakers are running late. We know that uninterrupted learning time makes a difference in our students' academic success, and we are committed to minimizing the number of times classroom work is interrupted. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child spends as much time in school as possible.

- **Please be sure that your child dresses warmly for school.** In order to allow the children to get fresh air and exercise, we will go outside for recess unless it is extremely cold. Winter coats, hats and mittens/gloves are necessary most days in the winter. Thank you!

Please see the December calendar on the back.

Floral Street School - Important Dates in December

December 9	All School Meeting @ 2:30
December 16	School Council meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
December 20	Hannukah begins
December 23	All School Meeting @ 2:30
December 24 – January 2	No school – Christmas/New Year's Vacation December 23 is a <u>full day</u> of school. School resumes January 5.
December 26	Kwanzaa begins

PTO Bulletin:

The grand total profit for this year's Genevieve fundraiser (wrapping paper, etc.) was \$19,246.31! Thank you to all of you who supported the school through this fundraiser, and a special thank you to Joanne Hubbard, who has organized this particular fundraiser for several years. These funds will be used in many ways to support the education of all students at Floral Street School!